

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0120

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, US, CU
SUBJ: CUBAN REVOLUTION RECEIPTION IN ALGIERS

REF: ALGIERS 0042

1. MY WIFE AND I ATTENDED CUBAN REVOLUTION RECEIPTION HERE IN ALGIERS ON JANUARY 11 IN RESPONSE TO FIRST SUCH INVITATION EXTENDED TO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AT THIS POST IN MEMORY. NO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY STAFF WERE INVITED ALTHOUGH LOWER LEVEL DIPLOMATS AT OTHER EMBASSIES WERE INVITED.

2. CROWDED RECEIPTION CHARACTERIZED BY HEAVY REPRESENTATION OF DIPLOMATS FROM EASTERN BLOC (INCLUDING RED CHINA) AND OF LEADERS OF VARIOUS "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" RESIDENT IN ALGIERS. AMONG THE LATTER, PROMINENT WAS A FORMER COMMUNIST MEMBER OF THE CHILEAN PARLIAMENT AS WELL AS THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP OF SWAPO, ANC AND POLISARIO. SURPRISINGLY, NONE OF POLISARIO REPS AT RECEIPTION MADE ANY MOVE TO SEEK ME OUT.

3. LATIN AMBASSADORS PRESENT WERE FROM PERU (BEING REPLACED SHORTLY), VENEZUELA, MEXICO AND ARGENTIAN. THERE WAS NO APPARENT SPANISH REPRESENTATION AS THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR WAS RECENTLY RECALLED BY MADRID. SIMILARLY, THERE WAS NO REPRESENTATION FROM THE BRAZIL
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LIAN EMBASSY ALTHOUGH THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR DID ATTEND.

4. THE SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE, IGOR AMOSSOV, WHO SERVED FIVE YEARS IN HAVANA (AND WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM THE US IN 1954), DID NOT ATTEND BECAUSE HE IS PRESENTLY ON A GOA-SPONSORED TOUR OF SOUTHERN ALGERIA WITH ALL THE OTHER MILITARY ATTACHES. HOWEVER, NOTWITHSTANDING THE VIRTUAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE MAJOR

CITIES OF THE DEEPEST SAHARA AND ALGIERS, AMOSSOV DID MANAGE TO REPORT BACK TO THE SOVIET CHARGE ZYKOV THAT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED ME IN THE SOUTH (TAMANRASSET) UNDER "SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES". WE DID, INDEED, BUMP INTO EACH OTHER AT THE FAIR IN TAMANRASSET LAST WEEK. THE SOVIET CHARGE REVELLED IN REPORTING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF MY MOVEMENTS TO ME.

5. THE ONLY WESTERN DIPLOMATS I SAW WERE THE FRENCH, DUTCH, GREEK, AUSTRIAN, BELGIAN AND SWEDISH AMBASSADORS AND THE AUSTRALIAN CHARGE. THERE WAS ALSO A REP OF THE PAPAL NUNCIATURE, FATHER AGOSTINO MARCCHETTO, WHO SERVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS IN CUBA PRIOR TO BEING ASSIGNED TO ALGERIA.

6. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE AFRICAN AND ASIAN DIPLOMATS WERE PRESENT AS WERE THE ARABS.

7. DIPLOMATIC RECEPTIONS IN ALGIERS ARE RATED BY THE NUMBER OF MINISTERS AND/OR PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS THEY ATTRACT. ODDLY ENOUGH FOR A COUNTRY WITH WHOM ALGERIA MAINTAINS THE CLOSEST OF RELATIONS, THE ONLY SUCH DISTINGUISHED ALGERIAN PRESENT WAS THE MINISTER OF HEALTH. OTHER LOWER LEVEL ALGERIAN OFFICIALS ATTENDED.

8. WITHOUT GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY TO COZY UP TO US, THE CUBAN DIPLOMATS WERE COURTEOUS AND CORDIAL HOSTS WHO STUDIEDLY AVOIDED STOPPING TO CHAT WITH ANY GROUP OF WHICH WE WERE A PART.

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9. COMMENT: THRE PRESENCE OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AT A CUBAN RECEPTION WAS THE TALK OF THE TOWN IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING. UNDOUBTEDLY, THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR'S INSTRUCTIONS ON FRATERNIZING WITH AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ARE THESAME AS OURS: CORRECT AND COOL. WHAT IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST IS THE SOLITARY MINISTERIAL-LEVEL ALGERIAN REPRESENTATION. NOTWITHSTANDING RAUL CASTRO'S PRIVATE VISIT TO ALGERIA LAST MONTH, THE CUBANS HAVE STOPPED SHORT OF ALL-OUT ENDORSEMENT OF THE ALGERIAN SAHARA POLICY. I SUSPECT THE ALGERIANS FIND THIS SORT OF TREATMENT AT THE HANDS OF THEIR FRIENDS HARD TO SWALLOW AND MAY BE USING THIS PUBLIC OCCASION TO SHOW THEIR DISPLEASURE.HAYNES

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